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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 18, 1971

To: INR/DDC/NIS - A. Sidney Buford III
From: EUR/RPE - David G. Shaw
Subject: NIS 26, Section 36

Our Economic Advisor to the U.S. Mission at NATO, Mr. Milton Kovner, informs me that the Economic Directorate of the NATO International Staff (IS) has projected a study on the Soviet merchant marine, to be completed over the next several weeks. The study will form an important part of NATO's continuing review of Soviet intentions and capabilities.

However, the personnel and research resources of the IS are not such that they will be able to undertake the study unassisted. Mr. Kovner has noted the existence of a recent and rather comprehensive study on the same subject prepared under U.S. Government auspices: NIS 26, Section 36. He has therefore requested authority to make this NIS section available to the IS to assist their labors. He notes that the section in question has relatively low classification (confidential) and that there are no specific limitations on dissemination to friendly foreign governments.

I would myself note the obvious importance of the projected NATO study, both to the Alliance and to U.S. goals within the Alliance. The breadth and depth of U.S. intelligence and research resources are well known and widely respected within NATO, and a significant U.S. contribution to this study--indeed to virtually any NATO study--is taken for granted by the Alliance. This, however, is not simply a responsibility, but also an opportunity. It is certainly true that in many cases our participation in NATO's research projects entails an unforeseen and sometimes onerous increase in the workload of the affected intelligence-community offices. On the other hand, in any case where the U.S. makes a significant input to some NATO project we are able to guide the thinking and shape the policies of NATO members, singly and collectively, along lines

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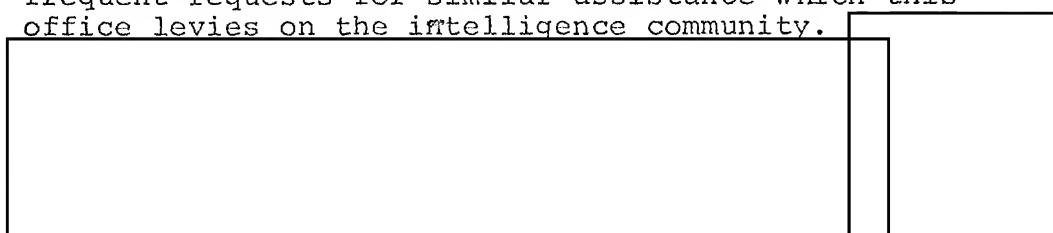
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consistent with our own.

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I have included the foregoing as background to the frequent requests for similar assistance which this office levies on the intelligence community.



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